

**MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF DATA RECOVERY
EXCAVATIONS AT 38CH2091,
A ST. PAUL PARISH PLANTATION,
CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**



CHICORA RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 491

**MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF DATA RECOVERY EXCAVATIONS
AT 38CH2091, A ST. PAUL PARISH PLANTATION,
CHARLESTON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**

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Chicora Research Contribution 491

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ABSTRACT

This document provides a brief summary of data recovery excavations conducted by Chicora Foundation for Special Properties of Charleston, SC at archaeological site 38CH2091, a late eighteenth century plantation complex, under an existing Office of Ocean and Coastal Resources Management (OCRM) Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The work was based on a data recovery plan submitted by Chicora archaeologists in 2007.

Previous archaeological investigations included an intensive cultural resources survey, as well as close interval testing. This would revealed the presence of three probable structures, based on discrete brick piles, dating from at least the last quarter of the eighteenth through the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Historical research for the property was ambiguous at the survey and testing stage, confounded by an absence of plats and the failure to identify meaningful property descriptions. St. Paul's Parish, however, was known for its abundant, and wealthy eighteenth century inland swamp rice cultivation. This practice, however, was largely abandoned after the American Revolution and vast tracts sat largely idle through the nineteenth century.

The data recovery investigations included black excavations, followed by careful mechanical stripping to further explore the architectural remains. Although not specified by the data recovery plans, these field investigations were coupled with additional historical research.

The field work identified a main house, probably constructed about 1750-1760 that measured about 43 by 23 feet, with a south facing entrance. Along the north exterior wall

were two chimneys. The structure had a footprint of about 989 square feet and was one story, slightly raised, with its roofline probably containing additional occupied spaces. This structure is a type that was likely common, but which not been well documented.

The second structure identified was a kitchen and probable wash house, evidenced with a central double (back-to-back) chimney.

The third structure was a later, nineteenth century, slave structure, probably providing housing for house slaves.

Artifact recovery was excellent, with the excavations producing a wide range of architectural, kitchen, and other specimens. Features are not abundant and we discovered that the southern portion of the site had been cultivated in the past.

Additional historical research reveals the plantation, possibly known as Richmond Hill, was likely occupied, at least in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, by the Sommers family. Thus far, we have been unable to identify much about this family or their activities. The archaeological collection, therefore, are of special importance in exploring the lifeways of St. Paul's Parish planters during the height of tidal rice cultivation in the eighteenth century.

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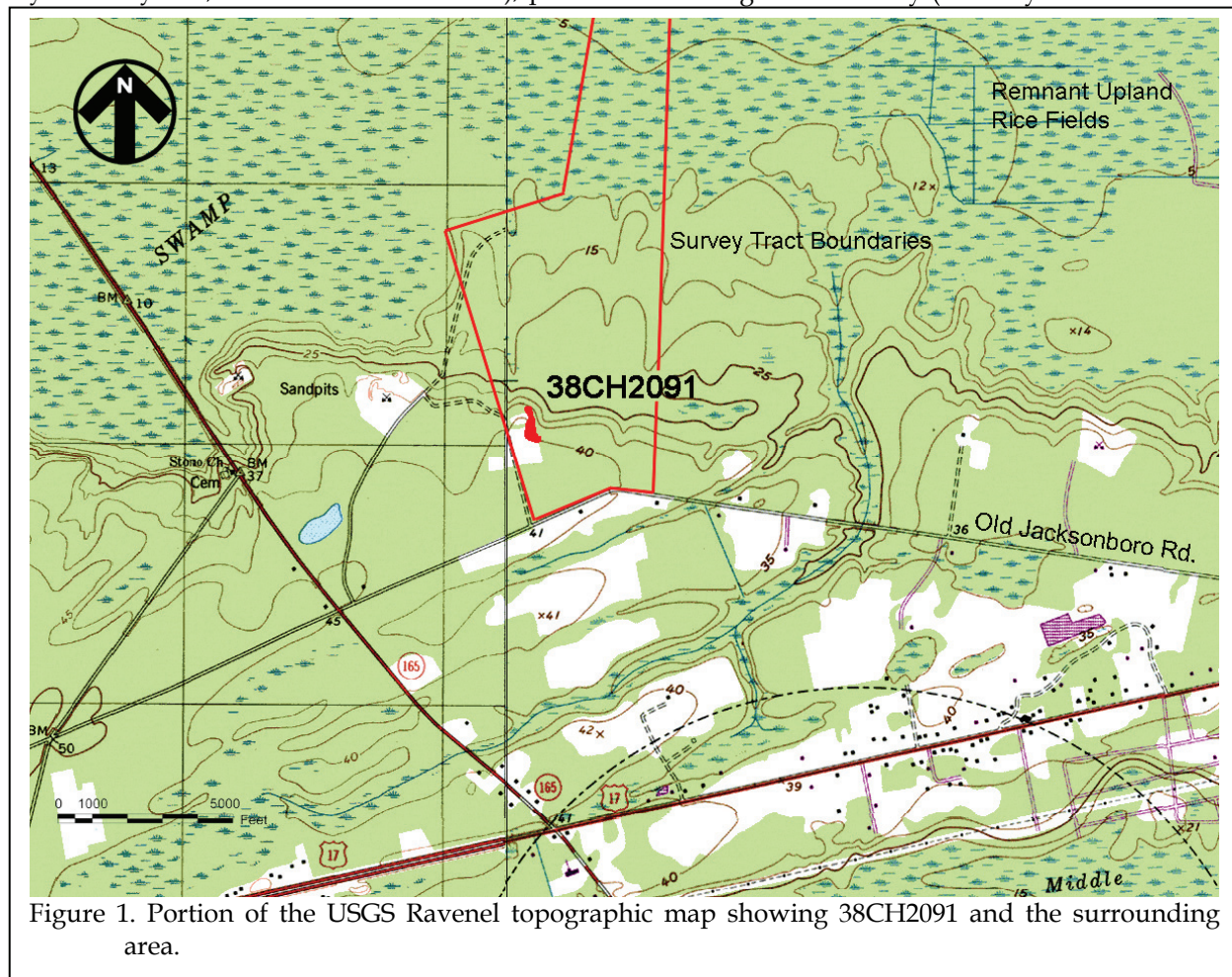
INTRODUCTION

Background

The data recovery investigations were conducted by Dr. Michael Trinkley of Chicora Foundation, Inc. for Mr. Phineas Deford of Special Properties in Charleston, South Carolina. The field studies were conducted from February 18 through March 18, 2008 with a crew of four archaeologists (Laureen Crosby, Ashley Guba, Cynthia Wyland, and Nicole Southerland), plus

was provided by Chicora's Laboratory Supervisor, Debi Hacker. A total of 564 person hours were spent in the field. An additional 25 person hours were spent in the field laboratory during rain periods. A broad range of detailed analysis is in the process of being conducted with the completion of the field investigations.

Site 38CH2091 was first encountered during a 2006 survey (Trinkley and Southerland



the Principal Investigator (who was on-site throughout the project). Additional assistance

2006). The site was initially encountered in shovel testing, with 42% of the 168 shovel tests

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(primarily at 50 foot intervals) positive for either artifacts or brick rubble. The site was found to contain late eighteenth to early nineteenth century domestic materials, producing almost 140 artifacts (representative of Kitchen, Architecture, Clothing, and Activities groups) and three brick piles (thought to represent three structures).

Additional close interval shovel testing and the excavation of 10 1.5 foot square units were conducted later that same year to further define the site and determine eligibility. The size of the site, however, stayed consistent with the Phase I testing of 500 feet north-south by 375 feet east-west (Figure 2). The typical soil profile resembled the Chipley Series, which has an A horizon of very dark gray (10YR3/1) loamy fine sand to 0.5 foot in depth over a yellowish brown (10YR5/4) loamy fine sand to just under a foot in depth. The profile then turns to a light yellowish brown (2.5YR6/4) loamy sand that occurs to a depth of 2.0 feet.

A mean ceramic date (MCD) calculated from the test units at each of the three brick piles, revealed that brick piles 1 and 2 were generally contemporary, with brick pile 1 having a MCD of 1786 and brick pile 2 having a MCD of 1798.6. Brick pile 3, however, exhibited a MCD of 1821.5. Taken together, the MCD for the site (using all artifacts from shovel testing and test units) was found to 1797.3 (Southerland and Trinkley 2006).

Brick pile 1 was the largest scatter, extending almost 30 feet. No intact brick was found and three of the four test units (TU 1, TU 2, and TU 9) produced a layer of very dark grayish brown (10YR3/2) sand, representing a burn layer. Burned artifacts and melted glass were recovered from several of the test units.

Brick pile 2, to the west, appeared smaller, with the brick more scattered. Subsequent examinations (with the area cleared

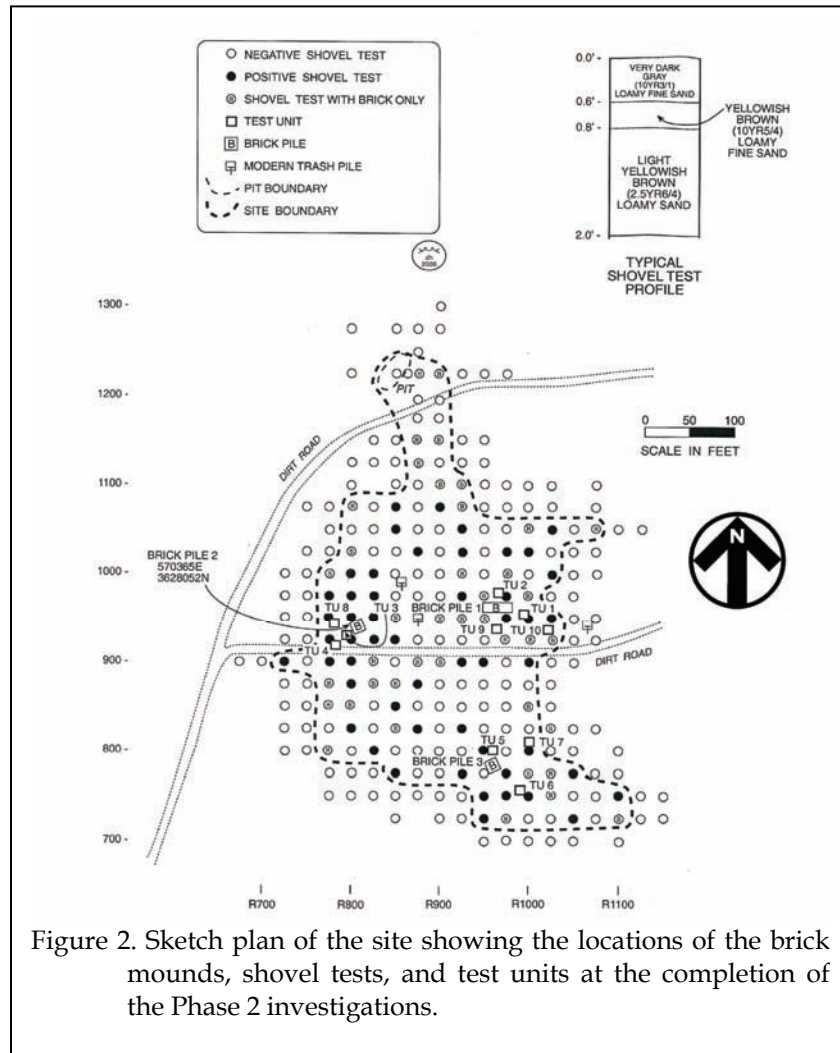


Figure 2. Sketch plan of the site showing the locations of the brick mounds, shovel tests, and test units at the completion of the Phase 2 investigations.

The site was situated in an upland area at the edge of the bluff overlooking the Caw Caw Swamp to the north. Elevations were about 30-35 feet AMSL and the soils were sandy and well drained (Figure 1).

of underbrush) suggested the presence of two or



Figure 3. Area of brick pile 1, looking north.

three small piles. A burn layer was not recognized in the three test units placed in this area (TU 3, TU 4, and TU 8).

Brick pile 3 was a small (and low density) brick scatter compared to the first two loci. In addition, artifacts were less abundant with three test units (TU 5, TU 6, and TU 7) producing less than 20 specimens each.

The 540 artifacts recovered from the initial studies yielded an artifact pattern most reminiscent of the Revised Carolina Artifact Pattern (Garrow 1982) characteristic of British-American occupants during the late colonial and early antebellum. Differences included the absence of personal items and a higher than anticipated percentage of activities items at 38CH2091. The amount of tobacco related artifacts at 38CH2091 is also low. Site 38CH2091 also displays some similarities to an eighteenth century overseer's site in Berkeley County (Trinkley et al. 2003). The Architecture Group of 38CH2091, however, is higher than the overseer, as is the Clothing Group. Thus, the early studies failed to definitively characterize the site. This, however, can perhaps be attributed to the small collection size and the combination of three distinct site areas.

The analysis of the ceramics from the testing phase also revealed conflicting data. Flat wares dominated the collection – suggestive of a wealthier individual. The decorations, however, suggested more modest means, being dominated by plain, annular, and edged examples. Curiously, in spite of the generally early dates for the site, no Colono ware (a low fired pottery associated with slave manufacture) was encountered in the testing phase.

Confronted with ambiguous remains, often the historic documentation will help resolve some of the conflicts. This was not the case at 38CH2091. We can speculate that the occupants of the plantation were almost certainly associated with upland rice cultivation (for which a detailed context has been previously developed, see Trinkley et al. 2003:13-41), but at this juncture little more can be said. The title search was confounded by an early twentieth century amalgamation of tracts with no good verbal description, combined with an absence of useful plats. Although there are indications that the plantation might be Richmond Hill, this is a name that fails to show up in secondary accounts for the region.

In fact, the St. Paul Parish is largely unstudied. By the early antebellum many of the plantations were largely devalued by the decline in upland swamp rice cultivation and land in this part of South Carolina had little value. Chaplin, for example, notes "Saint Paul Parish, South Carolina, had an estimated 128 settled inland rice swamp plantations at the time of the Revolution, but only 8 in the antebellum period once tidal estates proliferated" (Chaplin 1993:243). Ruffin had little to say about the region, other than noting, "the ride of this day has been mostly through a poor country, almost abandoned" (Mathew 1992:121).

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As a result of the study, the site was recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D, information potential. This evaluation was accepted by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) (letter from Mr. Chuck Cantley, SHPO, dated December 14, 2006). A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with the SHPO and the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) for data recovery at the site. A data recovery plan was submitted to the SHPO and accepted in 2007.

Research Questions

The National Register assessment of the site and the subsequent MOA Data Recovery Plan was predicated on the assumption that 38CH2091 represented that of an overseer, with an initial structure burned during the Revolution and rebuilt nearby afterwards. Thus the initial focus was to examine this hypothesis, with special attention on the identification of an additional overseer resource and comparison of these data to those obtained from Liberty Hall (Trinkley et al. 2003) and Belle Hall (Trinkley et al. 2005).

We observed that the latter study incorporated an extensive review and context development for eighteenth century overseers in South Carolina. To this could be added the research by Wiethoff (2006), although his focus is on the antebellum. We commented that these studies provide a good overview of artifacts and artifact patterns, as well as additional information on architectural expectations. The historical research would provide a context in which to evaluate the findings.

We recognized that field investigations would need to focus on two issues: the collection of a representative collection and the evaluation of architectural remains. While artifacts tend to be densest in the vicinity of the brick piles, these piles may only represent one

aspect of the site's architecture (for example a brick chimney fall).

As a result, we hoped to explore a variety of areas – balancing artifact density (and good recovery) with obtaining a sample that would provide the opportunity to explore intra-site variation, should it exist. It would also be necessary to ensure that the excavations are able to address architectural issues, such as structure design, complexity, and components.

We also recognized the importance of exploring the relationship of brick piles 1 and 2 – do they represent the same structure (for example end chimneys on a structure larger than anticipated) or perhaps two discrete structures (perhaps a house and utility building)?

Finally, our data recovery plan observed that brick pile 3, both later in time and isolated on the southern site edge, while deserving of some attention, was likely not to be the key to the understanding of the site's form and function. Thus, it was to receive considerably less attention than the other two areas. Similarly, although prehistoric remains were present, they were determined not to represent a contributing resource.

Data sets recognized through the testing phase included both floral and faunal remains. Therefore, we anticipated the need for both some level of zooarchaeological and ethnobotanical analysis (likely including pollen and phytolith studies, which previous research has shown to be useful in rural plantation contexts).

Our data recovery plan did not allow for additional historical research since we felt that the previous efforts had likely exhausted available sources.

Proposed Data Recovery

Field Investigations

We proposed to immediately begin block excavations, since the 25-foot interval shovel testing provided good site definition. We initially noted that since structural excavations typically produce very large (at times overwhelming) collections of architectural remains (window glass and nails), we would do no more structural excavations than necessary to obtain a sample of materials and identify structure size and organization. Since we believed the structures to be relatively small, we anticipated no more than about 150 ft² per brick area – for a total of 300 ft². Given the relatively late date for brick pile 3, we proposed no more than 50-100 ft² in that area.



Figure 4. Brick pile 2, excavations in progress, looking north.

Once these were completed, we intended to turn to yard and near-house areas, where it might be more possible to collect samples representative of trash disposal practices – these remains would better help define the class of the occupants and their life style. Yard excavation areas might also provide better faunal samples. We anticipated about a

combined total of 300 square feet of yard excavation at brick piles 1 and 2.

Identified features would be plotted and investigated. The extent of excavation will depend on the nature of the feature and the materials recovered. Some might be excavated in their entirety, others might only be sampled. Five-gallon flotation samples would be taken of features that have dark, organic soils indicating the potential for the recovery of floral remains.

With the completion of these studies, we then proposed to strip in cardinal directions from the excavation blocks to expose additional area, allowing for the documentation of features or activity areas that might not have been identified in the controlled excavations.

Analysis

Once the field investigation was complete the artifacts would be returned to Columbia for laboratory processing. This would include washing, sorting, and cataloging. We proposed to use the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology for the curation of these remains and their cataloging system is therefore being used. The client would provide the curatorial facility with fee-simple ownership of the resulting collections.

Analysis of the collections would follow professionally accepted standards with a level of intensity suitable to the quantity and quality of the remains. The temporal, cultural, and typological classifications of the historic remains would follow such authors as Cushion (1976), Godden (1964, 1985), Miller (1980, 1991a, 1991b), Noël Hume (1978), Norman-Wilcox (1965),

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Peirce (1988), Price (1970), South (1977), and Walton (1976). Glass artifacts will be identified using sources such as Jones (1986), Jones and Sullivan (1985), McKearin and McKearin (1972), McNally (1982), Smith (1981), Vose (1975), and Warren (1970). Additional resources, for example for porcelains and Colono wares,



Figure 5. Brick pile 3, looking southeast.

would be used as necessary.

The analysis system would use South's (1977) functional groups as an effort to subdivide historic assemblages into groups which could reflect behavioral categories. The functional categories of Kitchen, Architecture, Furniture, Personal, Clothing, Arms, Tobacco, and Activities provide not only the range necessary for describing and characterizing most collections, but also allow typically consistent comparison with other collections.

Another important analytical technique we anticipated using in this study is the minimum vessel count. It is, of course, a prerequisite to the application of Miller's cost indices. The applicability of this approach, however, will depend on the materials found and their context. Although no cross mend analyses will be conducted on the glass artifacts, these materials will be similarly examined to define minimum number of vessel counts, with the number of vessel bases in a given assemblage being used to define the MNV.

Two methods will be used to determine the occupation span at 38CH2091. The first method would be South's (1977) bracketing technique. Since South's method only uses ceramic types to determine approximate period of occupation, Salwen and Bridges (1977) argue that ceramic types which have high counts are poorly represented in the ceramic assemblage. Because of this valid complaint a second method to be used is a ceramic probability contribution chart (Bartovics 1981).

We proposed to conduct off-site water flotation of those samples collected from contexts that suggest the presence of floral remains. The analysis of these remains will be conducted in-house. Faunal remains will be collected and submitted to Dr. Homes Hogue (Cobb Institute, Mississippi State University) for analysis. We anticipate providing two pollen and phytolith samples to Paleo Research Laboratory in Golden, Colorado.

Curation

An updated site form reflecting this work has already been filed with the South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA). The field notes and artifacts from Chicora's data recovery at 38CH2091 will be curated at SCIAA. The artifacts have been cleaned and are currently in the process of being cataloged following that institution's provenience system. All original records and duplicate records will be provided to the curatorial facility on pH neutral, alkaline buffered paper. Photographic documentation is entirely digital. Copies of all photographs will be provided as tiff images to SCIAA.

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Methods

The project area was relatively open during the survey and testing phases, but some hand clearing was necessary to allow access and placement of the site grid.

To provide horizontal control at the site we created a grid allowing expansion to cover the two brick piles north of the dirt access road, as well as the smaller pile to the south of the road. This grid was oriented north-south and was a modified Chicago-style grid based on an arbitrary 0R0 point located at the southwest edge of the tract.

A single vertical control point was used for the excavations at 38CH2091 placed in the middle of the access road. This point was given an assumed elevation (AE) of 10 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). All of the excavations' vertical elevations were tied into this datum.

A contour map of the site was created based on the created grid and assumed elevation datum. This map clearly reveals that the site, while situated at the edge of the sand ridge overlooking the Caw Caw Swamp, is relatively flat, with very little variation (Figure 6).

The minimal excavation unit was a 5 by 5 foot unit, with excavations at the site also making use of 2.5x10, 5x10, and 10x10 units. Chicora has adopted engineering measurements (feet and tenths of feet) for consistency in its work. Formal excavations at the sites were conducted by hand, using mechanical sifters fitted with 1/4-inch inserts for standardized recovery of artifacts.

Excavation was conducted by natural soil zones. Most areas around the brick piles

exhibit a black (7.5YR2.5/1) or very dark brown (7.5YR2.5/3) loamy sand with dense rubble that represents a demolition or collapse level of structural remains. Both structures to the north of the road exhibit burning – probably representing the proximate cause of their abandonment.

In some areas the rubble overlies a dark brown (7.5YR3/3) loamy sand that appears to represent the old A horizon at the time of structure use. This, in turn, overlies a brownish yellow (10YR6/6) or light yellowish brown (10YR6/4) sand that represents subsoil at the site. In other areas the rubble sits on the subsoil without any clear evidence of remnant A horizon soils, suggesting that occupation, salvage, or other factors mixed the rubble and old A horizon.

Munsell soil color notations were made during the course of excavations, typically on moist soils freshly exposed. All materials except shell and rubble (consisting of brick and mortar) were retained by provenience. Shell and rubble were weighed (to the nearest pound) and discarded on-site. A one-ounce soil sample was retained from each zone. We have previously retained much larger samples, allowing the luxury of a variety of soil studies. With the current curation issues at SCIAA, this is no longer practical and we have abandoned the retention of large samples.

Units were troweled and photographed using digital recordation at the base of the excavations. Each unit was drawn at a scale of 1 inch to 2 feet. Features were designated by consecutive numbers (beginning with Feature 1). Features, depending on the evaluation of the field director, were either completely excavated,

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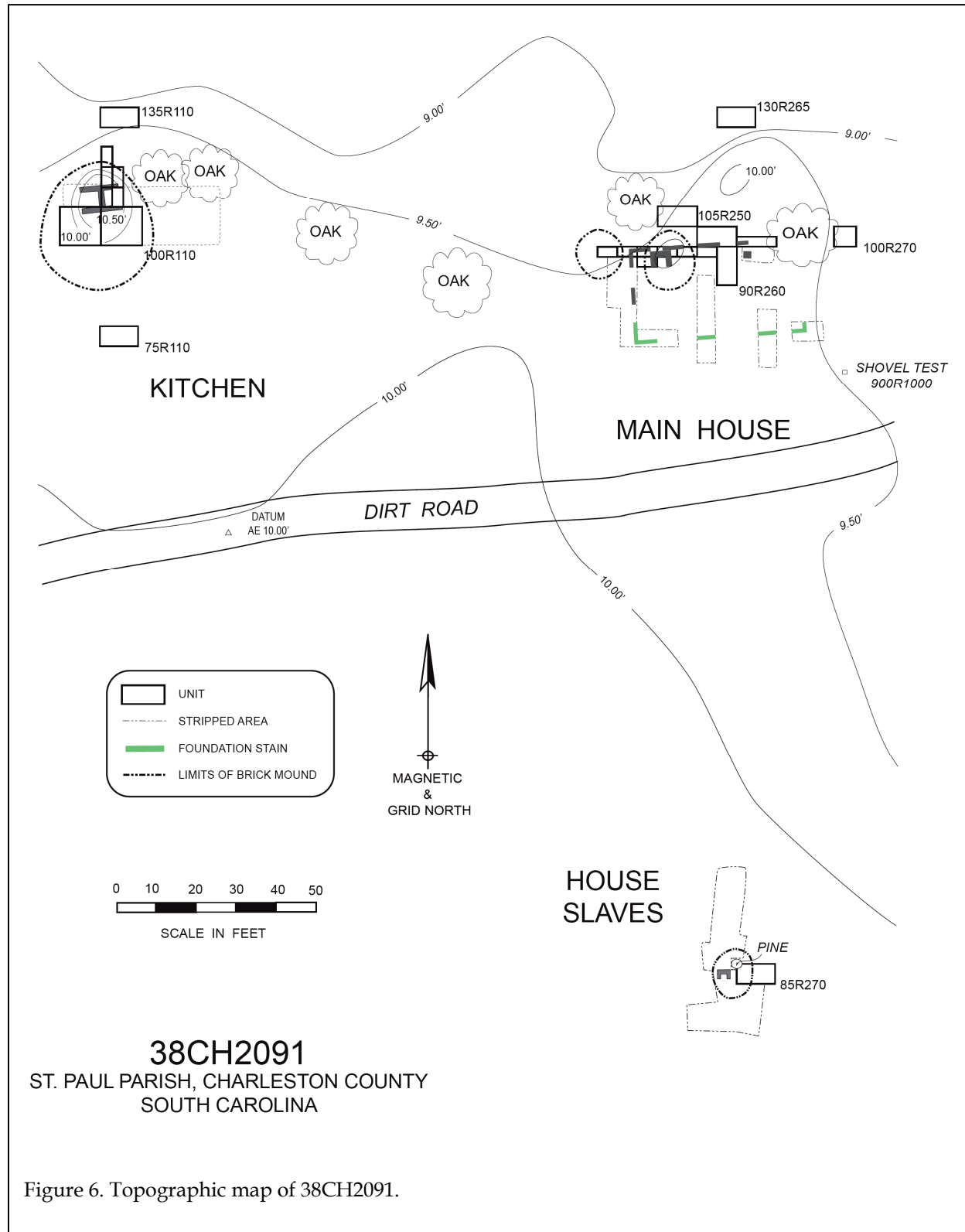


Figure 6. Topographic map of 38CH2091.

or bisected (i.e., partially excavated), and not removed (based on redundancy).

Feature fill was dry screened through ¼-



Figure 7. Stripping using a Bobcat and a toothless bucket followed by flat shoveling.

inch mesh and features, upon completion of their excavation, were also photographed using a digital camera. Since we anticipated pollen and phytolith studies of many features, larger soil samples were routinely collected by dry screening out shell and rubble through ¼-inch mesh, prior to waterscreening. A 5-gallon sample was also retained from features exhibiting a dark, loam fill for flotation using mechanically assisted water float equipment.

At the conclusion of the hand excavations, additional square footage at each of the three brick mounds was opened by mechanical stripping. A small Bobcat with a 52-inch grading bucket (these lack teeth, allowing for clean cutting) was used.

As a result of this work, 350 ft² were hand excavated at the western mound, 375 ft² at the eastern mound, and 50 ft² at the southern mound, totaling 775 ft² or 895.5 ft³. These excavations included 14,732 pounds (7.4 tons) of brick rubble and 355 pounds of shell. An additional 375 ft² at the western mound, 400 ft² at the eastern mound, and 350 ft² at the southern mound were mechanically stripped. The

stripping operations added an additional 1,125 ft² to the hand excavations. As a result 1,900 ft² of the site area was examined during these data recovery operations.

Thus, these investigations examined 1.3% of the total site area (of 147,600 ft²). However, if only the site core is considered (estimated to be approximately 8,000 ft²), then this study examined almost 24%.

Results of Excavations and Stripping

Western Brick Mound

Investigations in this area began with the excavation of two contiguous 10 foot units, 100R100 and 100R110, that were placed on the

Table 1.
Brick and Shell Weights (in pounds)

Unit	Bricks	Shells
Western Brick Mound		
75R110 (5x10)	25	
100R100 (10x10)	2,161	
100R110 (10x10)	2,049	
110R105 (2.5x10)	643	
115R102.5 (2.5x10)	775	
135R110 (5x10)	118	
Subtotal	5,771	0
Eastern Brick Mound		
90R260 (5x10)	1,230	5
95R245 (2.5x10)	1,198	1
97.5R235 (2.5x10)	30	13
97.5R245 (2.5x10)	1,171	32
97.5R255 (2.5x10)	625	57
100R260 (5x10)	1,620	246
100R270 (2.5x10)	617	
100R290 (5x5)	300	1
105R250 (5x10)	365	
130R265 (5x10)	1,441	
Subtotal	8,597	355
Southern Brick Mound		
-85R270 (5x10)	364	
Subtotal	364	0
Total	14,732	355

south edge of the clearly define mound of brick. These units were placed to allow the brick mound to be approached from areas of less dense rubble in order to better understand the stratigraphy and observe the formation process.



Figure 8. Chimney exposed in the western brick mound, view to the northeast.

These units immediately produced a brick wall oriented just off east-west that measured about 9 feet in length and was a double wythe of brick (about 1.1-1.2 feet). The stratigraphy evidenced two distinct zones. The upper, about 0.7 foot in depth, consisted of a black (7.5YY2.5/1) loamy sand with dense rubble. Below was a dark brown (7.5YR3/3) loamy sand with little or no rubble. Zone 1 represents building collapse or demolition, while Zone 2 likely represents original A horizon soils and sheet midden built up around the structure. Zone 2 graded into a brownish yellow (10YR6/6) sand that was frequently heavily mottled. This represents the subsoil at the site.

Since this wall was fully exposed and exhibited no corners, but neatly terminated at both ends, 110R105 and 115R102.5 were laid out in an effort to examine what lay under the remainder of the brick mound. These two 2.5x10 foot units revealed a parallel wall spaced about 5 feet to the north.

It would take stripping to expose the remainder of this brick feature, revealing it to be

a double (back-to-back) brick hearth or fireplace. Both boxes or openings measured 4 feet in depth and 5 feet in width. The bricks were laid in English bond with alternating stretchers and headers. This is a very strong bonding pattern and is generally seen in early structures. Lounsbury, for example, attributes it to the eighteenth century, noting that it largely disappeared by the early nineteenth century

(Lounsbury 1994:38).

Artifact density in the mound area was high. Nails were limited to wrought specimens. A variety of building hardware, including a door lock, shutter dogs, and a wide variety of



Figure 9. View of Feature 1 before excavation. North is at top.

hinges, were recovered. Ceramics, glass, and animal bone were also abundant.

In order to explore yard deposits two additional units were excavated - 135R110 to the north and 75R110 to the south. Both units produced significantly lower artifact density

than those units in the brick mound and only one feature was encountered.

Feature 1, identified at the base of Zone 1 in 135R110 centered at 135.5R105 was well defined semicircle of very dark brown (10YR2/2) sand measuring about 2.0 feet by 0.9 feet. Excavation revealed the feature to contain homogenous fill to a depth of 0.8 foot. Artifacts are present, but not abundant. No function can be ascertained. Soil was collected for flotation, as well as pollen and phytolith studies.

Feature 2, a builder's trench, was situated on the south side of the chimney wall spanning 100R100 and 110R100. The feature was not excavated, but the fill was a brown (10YR5/3) sand with no artifacts observed during cleaning.

Feature 3 was found in 110R105 and was the builder's trench along the north side of the southern chimney arm. It, too, consisted of brown (10YR5/3) sand. Excavation revealed the feature to average 0.6 foot in width. It extended to a depth of 1.0 foot, revealing an additional three courses below grade. No footer was present and the lowest course was laid directly on the sand with only a small amount of mortar. The base of the wall extended to 8.68 feet AE. Artifacts were very sparse, consisting only of a few nails and fragments from a "black" case bottle.

Feature 4 is the builder's trench that was found on both sides of the north chimney arm. This fill was also a brown (10YR5/3) sand. This trench averaged about 0.5 foot in width and extended to a depth of 8.72 feet AE. Again, three courses of brick were present below grade. No artifacts were recovered.

Eastern Brick Mound

The eastern area, once cleared, was found to consist of several small mounds with no discernable patterning, rather than one large mound as was found to the west. Consequently, we selected the largest and laid in two 5x10 foot units, 105R250 and 100R260. Excavations in the latter once again revealed very dense artifacts, including a variety of architectural remains. Wrought nails were also abundant. Unit 105R250, to the northwest, contained abundant brick, including an obvious wall fall, but



Figure 10. Brick wall fall in the south profile of 105R250, looking south.

produced far fewer artifacts. Stratigraphy was simple, consisting of very dark brown (7.5YR2.5/3) loamy sand and dense brick rubble overlying a mottled brownish yellow (10YR6/6) subsoil sand.

Excavation in 100R260 revealed a brick wall pier, 1.1-1.2 feet in width and 6 feet in length. This (and other brick work) was laid in English bond (identical to the kitchen). Excavation in 105R250 produced only the wall fall, so that unit was thought to be on the outside of the structure. Given the size of the one identified pier, we also thought it likely that the structure was only one story, indicating that

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the wall fall was most likely associated with a nearby chimney.

Uncertain of structure dimensions and



Figure 11. North wall of the eastern structure exposed by excavations and stripping. View to the east.

absent a corner, we began laying in units chasing the one wall identified. These included 2.5x10 foot units 97.5R255, 95R245, 97.5R245, and 97.5R235 to the west, and 100R270 to the east. This work identified a series of three piers, each of a different length and a corner (in 97.5R235). The matching northeast corner, however, could not be located and we felt it was likely destroyed by several very large live oaks.

The excavations did, however, reveal a chimney base in 95-97.5R245. This base had an opening of 3.3 feet, suggestive of a typical modest room fireplace. It was also situated to

account for the dense wall fall identified in 105R250.

Stripping was necessary to completely expose the structure. The western wall pier was found intact, piers for the southwest and southeast corners, as well as the south wall, were evidenced only by remnant stains. It appears that the piers in these areas had been robbed out. This robbing episode appears to correlate with differences in soil texture – indicating that the area south of about N80 line has been cultivated in the past. It is likely that the main house rubble was left largely intact at the edge of an agricultural field, representing too much effort to clear the debris.

The stripping identified a structure measuring 43 feet east-west by 23 feet north-south, for a total footprint of 989 ft². It also produced a second, matching northeast fireplace. The fireplaces, situated on the north wall, were each set about 4 feet from the structure corners and were set on the interior of the wall.

Excavations in 90R260, a 5x10 foot unit in the northeast quadrant of the structure produced a remnant lime floor. Found in other plantation settings, the use of packed shell and lime about an inch in depth produced a satisfactory, albeit somewhat temporary, basement floor. This finding suggests that the structure may have been raised sufficiently above grade to allow some storage space under the structure.

Yard units included 100R290 (5x5) and 130R265 (5x10). Both produced significantly reduced artifact collections. The 130R265 unit did reveal dense brick rubble. Although in line with the northeast chimney, this unit was over 50 feet removed from the main house, so it is uncertain if the rubble is a secondary deposit. Nevertheless, one interesting artifact associated with the rubble was an 8-foot section of 1-inch solid wrought iron lightning rod.

Although Franklin's experiments with electricity occurred in 1751-1752, it wasn't until mid-century that the benefit of lightning rods was beginning to be taken seriously. Moreover, it wasn't until the 1850s that the lightning rod evolved from a homemade device erected by knowledgeable farmers, mechanics, and blacksmiths to a commodity widely used (Krider 2002, Mohun 2002). Thus, the device identified from these excavations appears to be from the eighteenth century. Unfortunately, we have identified only the down conductor and are unable to comment on either the air terminal or the grounding system. The device, however, did appear to be fitted with a separate piece functioning as the air terminal. This rod was associated with several large spikes that likely attached it to the wooden clapboard of the structure and it was most likely placed adjacent to the chimney.



Figure 12. Brick fire box in the southern brick mound exposed by stripping. Unit -85R270 is situated to the upper right. The east (right) arm of the fire box was no longer in situ because of tree roots. View to the northeast.

Southern Brick Mound

This mound produced somewhat more recent materials, so it was to receive the least intensive investigations. Although the mound in this area was the smallest of the three, a large

pine was growing in its center. Consequently, a single 5x10 foot unit (-85R270) was laid out on the eastern edge of the mound.

The excavation produced a relatively low density of artifacts – a situation suggested by previous testing. Nails in this area were entirely machine cut, in contrast to the wrought nails elsewhere at the site. There was a very low density of brick, although over 300 pounds of oyster shell was recovered.

The unit revealed a foot or more of very dark brown (7.5YR2.5/3) loamy sand overlying a subsoil of mottled brownish-yellow (10YR6/6) sand. Some evidence of burning was present in the south profile, revealed by a lens of black (7.5YR2.5/1) sand and charcoal.

Stripping in this area, however, revealed that our excavation missed a brick fire box to the

east by only a foot (it was situated just beyond the pine). The fire box, measuring 3.2 by 2.2 feet, is centered in the mound which represents fall associated with the structure. We were unable to identify any surrounding piers – probably because this site area has been previously cultivated.

Architectural Remains

Main House

The 43 by 23 foot size of the structure is ample for four rooms, but the location of the two internal chimneys set at the northern exterior wall suggests that the floor plan is

one room deep, either with two rooms as a hall-parlor or two rooms with a central passage.

The hall-parlor is a structure one room deep and two rooms wide. The plan derives

from medieval Welsh and English types and was common in seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Virginia. However, the 38CH2091 example is not entirely typical since most Virginia hall-parlor structures had fireplaces on their gable ends. The traditional hall-parlor form contained two rooms of unequal size. The hall was the larger of the two and was the center of household activity, used for sitting and eating. The parlor (or chamber as it was sometimes called) was more private and used primarily for sleeping. Often the hall area would have a stair providing access to an upper floor or loft.

In the South Carolina low country this asymmetric hall-parlor plan is seen as a double pile plan with gable-end chimneys at Hanover (ca. 1720) which historically was in the Pinopolis vicinity (Stoney 1989:52-53, 112-114; cf. Lane 1989:24). Other early mansions such as Brick House, Crowfield and Fenwick Hall continued the hall-parlor pattern in a four-room plan, locating the stair in a rear passageway. Brick House had two internal chimneys, each heating two rooms on each level; Crowfield and Fenwick Hall had four chimneys set at the outside walls, one per room.

If we consider the possibility of two rooms and a central passage, it seems reasonable that the two rooms would each measure about 15 feet in width (with a length of 23 feet), while the central passage would have been 13 feet. This leaves ample room for a stair to the loft or rooms above the roof line.

Both reconstructions are ambiguous regarding the roof form, as well as the number of floors. Likewise, no evidence of a front (i.e., southern) porch exists since this area had been cultivated. Certainly one is reasonable, perhaps not a full-facade run, but only a portico. As a result, any reconstruction would be little more than pure conjecture. It also seems reasonable, given the oyster lime floor, that the house was raised.

We have few remaining examples of early eighteenth century structures in South Carolina. Smith (1999:76, 89) has attempted to reconstruct the colonial architecture, suggesting that a remarkably homogeneous South Carolina plan became established in the early decades of the eighteenth century. This "South Carolina type" is supposedly a double-pile plan with front rooms of unequal size, smaller rear rooms, and interior back-to-back fireplaces – with Otranto as a good model.

She suggests that the second quarter of the eighteenth century was characterized by four trends: increasing compactness of plan and massing (by which she means, "essentially symmetrical massing and façade elevations," the effort to preserve the Georgian ideal by enclosing as much as possible within "a rectilinear block"), expansion in size, a greater acceptance of wood, and the introduction of formal gardens and flankers (Smith 1999:106-107). From 1750 to the Revolution she notes that plantation houses – in reaction to the increasing importance of the urban townhouse – became less elaborated and more vernacular. Although size increased, architectural sophistication



Figure 13. Photograph of the Refuge Plantation kitchen, Camden County, Georgia in 1880 (Historic American Buildings Survey Collection, Prints and Photographs Division).

declined (Smith 1999:140).

Clearly, the 38CH2091 structure – thought to have been constructed by at least 1750 – does not fit neatly into this evolutionary trend Smith projects. Although constructed in the relatively isolated reaches of St. Paul Parish, we are not in a position to dismiss 38CH2091 as an exception. Rather, it seems that we simply don't have adequate data from which reasonable evolutionary trends can be created. The handful of standing structures are often ambiguous, with numerous additions and alterations. Archaeological examples are too often overlooked by architectural historians or the archaeologists fail to collect the data necessary to make the structures useful in

Tom Seabrook house (Stoney 1989:42-43, 169; Fick 2005:386-387) and became ubiquitous, well represented by the Vanderhorst house on Kiawah (Trinkley 1993; Fick 2005:360-361, 404-406). In this respect, the 38CH2091 structure provides an early example of what would become an important regional characteristic or style. This again emphasizes that in spite of considerable effort to unscramble the complex architectural heritage of the low country, we don't yet know enough to posit trends or characterize a particular style as dominant.

Kitchen

The only architectural data recoverable from the 38CH2091 kitchen involve the double

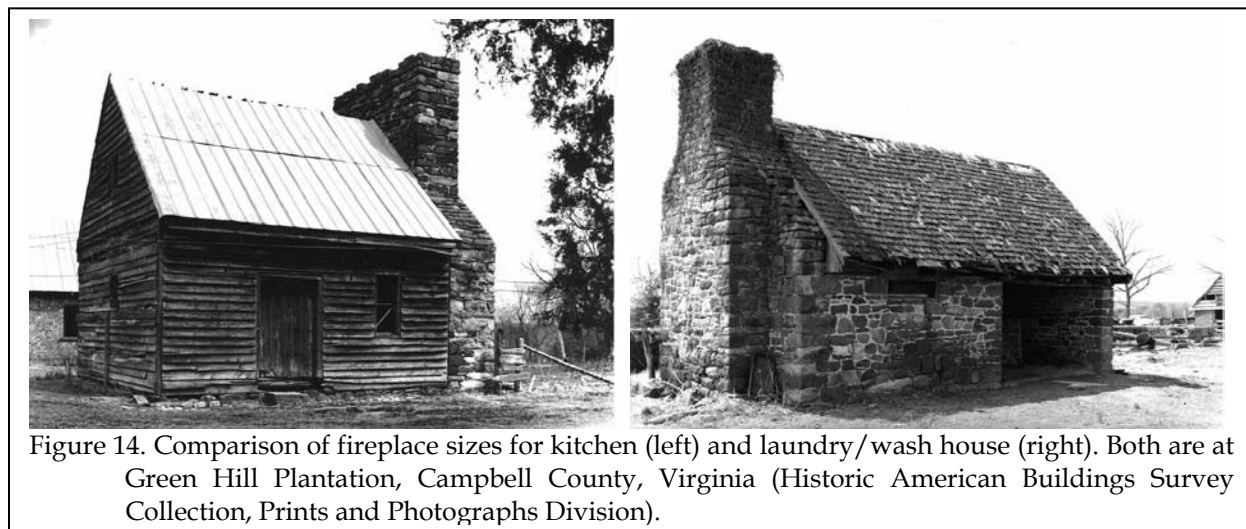


Figure 14. Comparison of fireplace sizes for kitchen (left) and laundry/wash house (right). Both are at Green Hill Plantation, Campbell County, Virginia (Historic American Buildings Survey Collection, Prints and Photographs Division).

comparisons.

It is worth noting that the location of this structure's two chimneys were not on the end walls and not outside the building, but also that they were not on an inside partition wall. Gene Waddell has observed that the use of these north-wall chimneys, a characteristic feature of the Charleston single-house, is very typical of nineteenth century Sea Island houses, and atypical elsewhere in the state or region. The low country's one-room deep plantation houses were not I-houses, but far more closely resemble the structure identified at 38CH2091. This chimney placement was seen in the ca. 1740 (?)

fireplace, with each firebox measuring 4 feet in depth and 5 feet in width. Kitchen fireplaces were routinely constructed wider and deeper than those intended solely for heating in order to provide room for the various pots and meat roasting (Strasser 2000:33). Lounsbury notes that, "the most prominent feature of a detached kitchen was its chimney with its large cooking fireplace" (Lounsbury 1994:200). Within these generic statements, however, there seems to have been considerable variation.

The Vanderhorst kitchen on Kiawah, for example, had a central fireplace measuring about 4 feet in depth by about 7 feet in width.

An earlier, and temporary, kitchen had a firebox with an opening measuring 2.8 feet in depth and 6.4 feet in width (Trinkley 1993:264, 266). The Stoney/Baynard kitchen structure on Hilton Head measured only 14 by 18 feet, with an end chimney having an interior fire box opening of about 5 feet and a depth of about 3 feet (Adams et al. 1995:50).

Valch (1993:44) notes that plantation kitchen photographs document two basic kitchen forms. One is very similar to the Stoney/Baynard kitchen consisting of a single room with an end fireplace (also similar to the Middleburg kitchen illustrated by Stoney 1989:95). The other type is a two room structure, where there may be a central fireplace (as was

Vernon, Monticello, and a variety of other locations. Photographs from Green Hill Plantation in Campbell County, Virginia show huge chimneys for both the kitchen and wash house. In fact Lounsbury (1994:398) observes that most wash houses were contained in a building associated with a kitchen and lists a 1733 advertisement from the *South Carolina Gazette* for a plantation sale near Goose Creek that contained, "a brick Kitchen and Wash-House."

We believe the most likely explanation for this structure at 38CH2091 is a kitchen and wash house. Both require large fireplaces and there is an economy in placing both under one roof.

Slave House

We have identified only one slave structure at the plantation. Constructed well after the main house and kitchen/wash house, we presume that this nineteenth century addition was intended for slaves tending to the complex.

The location of the eighteenth century field slave settlement has not been identified on the study tract, but was probably in close proximity to the rice fields of Caw Caw Swamp to the north. They are perhaps located on an adjacent tract and future archaeological investigations should pay particular attention to the possibility of their discovery.

The one structure found contributes little architectural data to our knowledge of nineteenth century slave housing. The area surrounding the brick pile has been plowed and we were unable to find any evidence of the structure's (probably very shallow) brick piers. All that remains is a very small (3.2 by 2.2 foot) and poorly built fire box. The careful workmanship seen in the other structures is not present here, likely because of its relatively late date and limited plantation activities.

Table 2.
Brick Sizes and Colors from a Random Sample
of Intact Kitchen and Main House Bricks

Length	Width	Height	Color
8.500	4.000	2.625	
9.000	4.000	2.625	
9.000	4.250	3.750	10YR5/4
8.750	3.750	2.625	
9.000	3.750	2.625	
9.000	4.000	2.750	
8.000	4.000	2.500	10YR3/4
8.875	4.125	2.125	
8.875	4.250	2.625	2.5YR4/6
9.250	4.375	2.500	
9.250	4.500	2.500	
8.750	4.500	2.625	
9.375	4.375	2.625	10YR4/4
7.500	3.500	2.500	
Average	8.795	4.098	2.643

the case at 38CH2091) or gable end fireplaces (such as the 1740 Oakland kitchen illustrated by Stoney 1989:62, 168). One room was used for food preparation, while he suggests that the other was often used as a residence for the slave cook. While this is possible, the size of the chimney at 38CH2091 seems excessive. Valch does not discuss the occurrence of wash houses on plantations – the only other function that we can imagine requiring so large a fire. Certainly the wash house was a common sight on plantations, being documented at Mount

Bricks

Various efforts have been made to attribute brick sizes (or colors) to various locations or periods (e.g., McKee 1973:53). Lounsbury (1994:46), however, observes that variations are the result of location, not time. This is certainly the case at 38CH2091, where we believe that the kitchen and main house represent a single building episode, yet the range in brick size (and color) is great.

Lounsbury (1994:46) is correct when he explains that bricks measure about 8 to 9 inches in length, 4 to 4½ inches in width, and 2½ to 3 inches in height, but the sample from 38CH2091 reveals the amount of variation that was possible from one kiln (we are assuming that all of the bricks were purchased from the same source). Likewise, the range in colors reveals considerable variation in the firing process (some bricks evidenced glazing).

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Initial Findings

Absent detailed analyses, our initial findings are largely speculative. However, some observations are possible, even at this early stage.

Historic Data

We continue to have problems, even with additional historic research, identifying the historic owner of the plantation. Research suggests that this *may* be the plantation known as Richmond Hill, a portion of which was still seen on maps as late as 1882 (Southerland and Trinkley 2006:Figure 6). We have identified an 1838 newspaper advertisement for the sale of the tract. The ad describes the property as being 19 miles from Charleston and containing 1000 acres, with 220 acres being good rice lands. Upland areas had been planted in cotton and provisions, with the rest being in pine. The lands are described as not having been planted for the past 30 years, suggesting that the property went into an estate about 1808. During that time only the area around a one-story dwelling was being planted. The ad refers interested readers to "John W. Sommers, Esq., St. Pauls Parish, or to George Buist and the subscriber, William McDow, in Charleston."

Unfortunately, we are unable to find the referenced property either coming into, or flowing out of either Sommers or McDow (Buist was an attorney who routinely handled estates; the property would not have been sold in his name). Thus, while this may represent a portion of the chain, it remains isolated and we are unable to tie it to the last identified owner, Capple A. Miller (also known as Capple A. Miller) who obtained the property from his father,

Rosher D. Miller (Southerland and Trinkley 2006:3,6).

We also suspect that Richmond Hill was owned by Edward B. Fishburne, who acquired much property in this specific area during the postbellum. Fishburne is also documented as selling portions of Richmond Hill (Southerland and Trinkley 2006:10).

Thus, while the chain is imprecise and weakly joined, we have some semblance of ownership to the early antebellum. In spite of this, we have little information on the property and its use during the early antebellum – and no information concerning its colonial occupation and use.

Although we continue to occasionally conduct research or attempt to follow leads, we see little hope for any substantive break through on the historic documentation of this parcel. It is one of the many tracts for which there simply are no useful historical accounts.

Archaeological and Architectural Data

The archaeological collections have produced a large collection (approximately 5 ft³) of materials documenting what we have interpreted as the main settlement and kitchen of the plantation. The materials suggest a date range similar to that obtained from the site testing – ranging from the late colonial to very early antebellum. Coincidentally, at least the terminal end of this range seems to correspond with the limited historic research available.

The previous mean ceramic dates range from the 1780s to the 1790s for the kitchen and main house (the slave settlement dates from the 1820s) and these seem reasonable given field

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inspection of recovered artifacts. Nevertheless, we anticipate that when the date range is examined, we'll see an initial occupation of the site from perhaps 1750 on.

Thus the collections should provide a valuable insight to the lifeways of a St. Paul Parish planter during the period when rice was king (see, for example, Trinkley et al. 2003:13-42). It may also be possible to examine the cultural and economic turmoil created by the demise of the rice kingdom after the American Revolution (leading up to the near abandonment and eventual sale of the property).

It will be possible to compare and contrast the collections between the main house and kitchen, exploring how closely a plantation kitchen reflects the social status evident in the main house.

It will also provide a baseline for archaeological research in St. John Parish – and area which has received little previous investigation but which reveals a somewhat unique historical development.

We have previously examined the implications of the detailed architectural analysis of the remains, noting that while the kitchen and slave remains are not unique (and in fact are limited in their explanatory ability due to cultivation), the kitchen at least provides evidence of a dual function structure.

It is the main house where the most interesting architectural remains are found. Here we have a relatively small structure – 989 ft² – more like a farm house than a mansion. We suggest that it fails to fall neatly into previous architectural models, except that it appears to represent a structure type that has received inadequate attention.

The placement of the chimneys on the long, rear north wall is not only very typical of the later nineteenth century Sea Island houses,

but is a distinctive feature of the Charleston single-house. These low country structures were not I-houses and are not seen elsewhere in the state or region. While the recovery of these archaeological remains may not resolve the issues surrounding this style, it does serve to document that the house existed far earlier than the nineteenth century standing examples.

Special Collections

The site produced regrettably few features and regrettably few opportunities to explore pollen, phytoliths, or ethnobotanical remains. We do not anticipate more than two samples will be useful for these purposes.

Faunal remains are present, although not in huge quantities – even from the kitchen area. They will nevertheless be forwarded for zooarchaeological study and we anticipate their major benefit will be the examination of an early rice planter diet.

Compliance with the Data Recovery Plan

The data recovery plan stipulated that brick mounds 1 and 2 would be examined by a combined total of approximately 300 ft² of block excavations. Although architectural recordation was a goal of the work, we also hoped to examine yard areas and therefore also proposed a combined total of an additional 300 ft² of block excavations around the two major mounds.

At the third, and smaller, mound, we proposed only 50-100 ft² of excavations given that it was producing significantly later remains.

Following these activities we intended to conduct stripping around the three mounds, focusing on efforts to fully expose architectural remains.

We found that the density of remains – as well as the density of brick rubble – made our original goal of quickly identifying structure orientation and exposing significant remains

problematical. Our 300 ft² of excavations had to be expanded to 475 ft². That, however, reduced our yard excavations from a proposed 300 ft² to 225 ft². Regardless, our total excavations exceeded the proposed 600 ft² with 700 ft² being hand excavated. This included the moving of over 7 tons of brick rubble.

At the southern mound we proposed between 50 and 100 ft² of excavations; we conducted 50 ft².

Although no specific number was proposed for block excavations, we opened an additional 1,125 ft² of site area at the three locations.

As a result 1,875 ft² of the site area was examined, a seemingly insignificant of the total plantation landscape. Yet, this represents over 1% of the total defined site area and almost 24% of the site core.

Most obviously missing from our discussions are the slave settlements. These were not encountered during the survey and we presume they are located off the 126 acre study tract. Also missing, however, are a host of possible other plantation structures – stables, smoke house, rice barns, and other features. It is entirely likely that many, leaving only a very sparse artifact scatter and occupying a very small area, have been overlooked by the initial study. They may, for example, not be presented by more than a handful of surviving nails scattered over a 30 foot area situated between 100 foot transects.

While our reconstruction of the plantation landscape is not complete, we have been able to identify several of the most important structures in this complex.

An updated SCIAA site form has been prepared and submitted.

The data recovery plan, therefore, has been fulfilled as proposed and we request that

the SHPO approve the management summary and concur in the level of investigations.

CONCLUSIONS

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